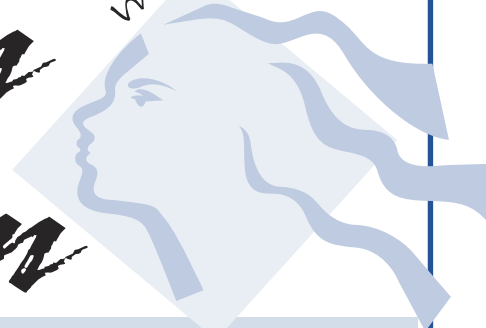


Michigan Women

A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission

Winter 2007



◆ GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR LINDA V. PARKER ◆
◆ CHAIR EMMA BELL ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY KARANDJEFF ◆

We Celebrate Our Women Elected Officials

On January 1, 2007, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm again made history as she was sworn in for her second term. She is the first woman governor of Michigan in over 165 years of history. Currently there are nine states with women governors: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, and Washington.

In her inauguration speech, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm pledged her commitment to transform

the state and provide opportunity to all citizens in Michigan.

"We know that our challenges have been decades in the making, and we know that full transformation doesn't happen overnight," Granholm said. "But that is precisely why we will act with urgency and intelligence and with a boldness equal to the challenge we face."

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the 2007 state legislative sessions

will see 1,736 women legislators serving throughout the country. Women currently hold 23.5 percent of legislative seats in the 50 states, a ratio that has increased only slightly over the past ten years. In Michigan, we will have 29 women, or 19.6 percent of legislative seats, serving in the Michigan Legislature, down from 31, or 21 percent, last year.

At the national level, on January 4, 2007, Representative Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the

House of Representatives. In her acceptance speech she remarked:

It's an historic moment for the Congress. It's an historic moment for the women of America. It is a moment for which we have waited over 200 years. Never losing faith, we waited through the many years of struggle to achieve our rights. But women weren't just waiting; women were working. Never losing faith, we worked to redeem the promise of America, that all men and women are created equal. For our daughters and our granddaughters today

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Celebrate Women Elected Officials

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we have broken the marble ceiling. For our daughters and our granddaughters now the sky is the limit. Anything is possible for them.

These trail-blazing women and many others are helping to guide all of us and the generations that come on new paths. For this, we thank them and offer our support!

Michigan Women Elected in 2006 to Other Statewide Offices

- Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan
- Casandra Ulbrich – State Board of Education
- Kathy White – U of M Board of Regents
- Julia Darlow – U of M Board of Regents
- Faylene Owen – MSU Board of Trustees
- Debbie Dingell – WSU Board of Governors

Women in Statewide Elected Executive Office

Michigan Women in Elected Executive Office

Only 6 women have held statewide elective executive office in Michigan.

Jennifer M. Granholm	Governor	2003 - present
	Attorney General	1999 – 2003
Terri Lynn Land	Secretary of State	2003 – present
Candice Miller	Secretary of State	1995 – 2003
Connie Binsfeld	Lt. Governor	1991 – 1999
Martha Wright Griffiths	Lt. Governor	1983 – 1990
Matilda Wilson	Lt. Governor	1940 (appointed to fill a vacancy)

Michigan Women in 110th U.S. Congress*

Of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate, there are 16 women, or 16 percent, currently serving, an increase from 14 women in 2006. Michigan has one woman Senator, re-elected in 2006 for a second six-year term.

Member	Party	District
Debbie Stabenow	D	statewide

Of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, 71 or 16.3 percent are held by women, up from 68 or 15.6 percent in the 109th U.S. Congress. In addition, in both the 109th and 110th Congress, three of the five non-voting delegates are women. The Congress now has its first woman Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

Of the 15 U.S. Representatives for Michigan in the 110th Congress, two women were re-elected in 2006 for a two-year term.

Member	Party	District (area)
Candice Miller	R	10 (St. Clair Shores)
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick	D	13 (Detroit)

*Source: Center for American Women and Politics

Women in Michigan Senate

In 2007, 9 women (6 Democrats and 3 Republicans), or 23.6 percent, out of 38 members are serving in the Michigan Senate. This is a decrease from 12 women in 2006.

Member	Party	District (area)
Martha Scott	D	2 (Highland Park)
Irma Clark-Coleman	D	3 (Detroit)
Gilda Jacobs	D	14 (Huntington Woods)
Nancy Cassis	R	15 (Novi)
Liz Brater	D	18 (Ann Arbor)
Gretchen Whitmer	D	23 (Lansing)
Patricia Birkholz	R	24 (Saugatuck)
Deborah Cherry	D	26 (Burton)
Michelle McManus	R	35 (Lake Leelanau)

Women in Michigan House of Representatives

In 2007, 20 women (16 Democrats and 4 Republicans), or 18.2 percent, out of 110 members are serving in the Michigan House of Representatives. This number is an increase from the previous session, but does not equal the record high of 31 women serving in the 1997-1998 legislative session.

Member	Party	District (area)
Bettie Scott	D	3 (Detroit)
Marsha Cheeks	D	6 (Detroit)
Shanelle Jackson	D	9 (Detroit)
Barbara Farrah	D	13 (Southgate)
Kathleen Law	D	23 (Gibraltar)
Marie Donigan	D	26 (Royal Oak)
Lisa Wojno	D	28 (Warren)
Kimberly Meltzer	R	33 (Clinton Township)
Brenda Clack	D	34 (Flint)
Fran Amos	R	43 (Waterford)
Pam Brynes	D	52 (Manchester)
Rebekah Warren	D	53 (Ann Arbor)
Alma Wheeler Smith	D	54 (Ypsilanti)
Kathy Angerer	D	55 (Lambertville)
Kate Ebli	D	56 (Monroe)
Barb Byrum	D	67 (Onondaga)
Joan Bauer	D	68 (Lansing)
Judy Emmons	R	70 (Sheridan)
Tonya Shuitmaker	R	80 (Paw Paw)
Mary Valentine	D	91 (Muskegon)

Earnings Gap Between Men and Women Narrows

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported in September 2006 that the earnings gap between men and women narrowed slightly in 2005, when women earned 81 percent of what men earned. BLS says that the gap has been closing every year since the statistics were first collected in 1979, when women earned 63 percent of what men earned.

In 2005, women's median weekly earnings were \$585 and, for men, \$722. The difference between men and women's earnings was greatest for middle-aged and older workers. Women workers between the ages of 45 and 54 earned 75 percent of what their male counterparts earned, but women age 25 to 34 earned 89 percent as much as men in the same age group.

Median weekly earnings vary greatly by education level. Women with less than a high school diploma earned \$341 per week in 2005 compared to those with a college degree who earned \$883 per week.

Women working full-time in management, business and financial operations earned \$847 per week in 2005, more than women working in any other industry. Women and men tend to work in different managerial and professional occupations, with men more likely to work in the highest paying fields such as engineering, computer and mathematical related occupations and women working in lower-paying professional occupations such as education, training, and library occupations. Just six percent of women earned \$1,500 or more per week compared to 14 percent of men.

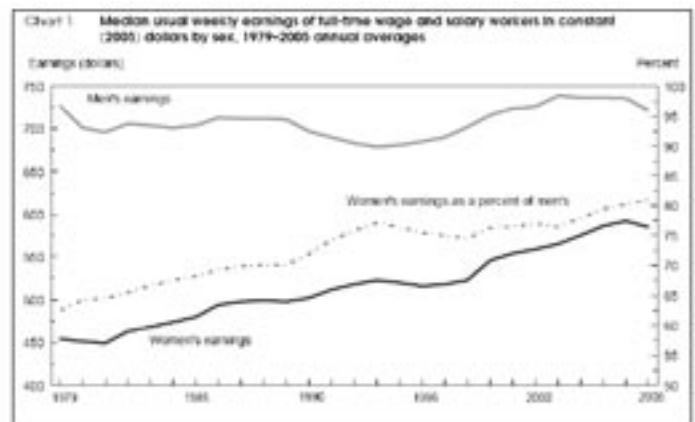
Median weekly earnings of married women with children under the age of 18 were 24 percent higher than

unmarried mothers. Married fathers earned 33 percent more than unmarried fathers did in 2005.

Asian workers of both sexes earned more than their white, black and Hispanic counterparts in 2005.

Women are more likely than men to work part-time; women who work part-time made up one-fourth of all female wage and salary earners in 2005. Median weekly earnings of women working part-time was \$206 in 2005 – for men working part-time that number was \$190 per week.

The BLS report is based on data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is a national monthly survey of approximately 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Go to <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2005.pdf> for a complete copy of the report.



College Gets More Affordable for Michigan Students

Every student in Michigan, beginning with this year's high school seniors, will now be eligible for a \$4,000 scholarship.

"The Michigan Promise scholarship opens the doors of education to every student in Michigan," said Granholm. "A \$4,000 scholarship makes earning a college degree or technical certification a real possibility for every student. It's an amazing opportunity for our students and a critical necessity for our economy."

Making college more affordable was a key recommendation of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth chaired by Lieutenant Governor John D. Cherry, Jr. The commission, which was charged with identifying strategies to double the number of college graduates in Michigan in the next decade, recommended that the state create a "new compact with its residents: an expectation that all students will achieve a post-secondary degree or

credential coupled with a guarantee from the state of financial support linked to the achievement of that goal."

The Michigan Promise was first proposed by Governor Granholm in her 2005 State of the State address. Starting with the Class of 2007, every student who attends college or technical training can earn a \$4,000 scholarship - \$1,500 more than the current Merit Award program. Students can attend any two- or four-year school in Michigan, public or private, or a wide array of technical training programs.

Students who score well on the high school assessment will receive \$1,000 during their freshman and sophomore years and earn the remaining \$2,000 after successfully completing two years of post-secondary education. Students who do not receive qualifying scores on the high school assessment can earn the entire \$4,000 scholarship by successfully completing two years of post-

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Earned Income Tax Credit

In August 2006, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and the Legislature agreed to enact a state earned income tax credit (EITC). The decision will mean millions of additional dollars in disposable income for working families each year. Granholm said, "This agreement rewards the hard work of low wage workers and strengthens families by giving them more disposable household income."

Working families will be eligible to receive a percentage of the federal EITC. The EITC rewards work by providing assistance to low and moderate income working families.

Working families in Michigan will be eligible for a phased-in percentage of the federal EITC, starting with 10 percent for 2008 and going up to 20 percent for 2009. When fully phased in, the state EITC will provide tax relief of almost \$300 million.

Meanwhile, Michigan families are urged to apply for the federal earned income tax when they file their taxes this year. The federal EITC is a special tax benefit for people who work. If you qualify, you will owe less in taxes, and you may get cash back. Even if you do not owe income tax, you can get the credit - but you must file a federal tax return.

When families file their 2006 tax returns during the 2007 tax filing season, eligible families can claim up to:

- \$2,100 from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- \$1,000 per child from the federal Child Tax Credit
- \$4,536 from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit

In 2004, some 663,000 Michigan families with incomes below \$35,458 received federal refund checks for EITCs averaging \$1,764. Depending on a person's income and number of dependents, the federal EITC can reach a maximum of over \$2,700 for families with 1 child, and over \$4,700 for families with two or more children. Almost 90 percent of the federal EITC is paid to taxpayers as a tax refund, and the new Michigan EITC will provide additional assistance to these working families.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Statewide Initiative is made up of organizations and state agencies which are dedicated to the mission of supporting work and reducing poverty for low to moderate income individuals and families through means that maximize the value of all income tax credit refunds, the promotion of asset building and financial security. You can learn more about the federal EITC at www.michiganeic.org.

Please share this information. Remember, you earned it, you keep it!

College Gets More Affordable

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secondary education. Students must maintain a 2.5 grade point average in their post-secondary institution to earn a Michigan Promise scholarship when they reach that two-year point.

The Governor called the Michigan Promise scholarship a critical step for Michigan's economy, as the states with the highest number of college graduates have the lowest unemployment rates and the fastest-growing economies. Coupled with the rigorous high school curriculum standards Granholm fought for and signed into law, the Michigan Promise scholarship will position Michigan as the state that will lead the nation in educational achievement and economic growth.

"The evidence is clear: the states with the highest education levels have the most thriving economies and lowest unemployment rates," said Granholm.

The legislation creating the Michigan Promise scholarship - Senate Bill 1335, sponsored by Senator Deborah Cherry (D-Burton), and House Bill 6302, sponsored by Representative Tupac Hunter (D-Detroit) - passed both legislative chambers in December on nearly unanimous votes.

RUN, GIRL, RUN Returns

In collaboration with the Oakland Community College Womencenter, The Godchaux, Safford Group will present the "Run, Girl, Run" workshop on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24. The workshop will cost \$75 for the 1½ day workshop at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College. This workshop is designed to help give the tools needed to run for political office on every level. The workshop is open to women and men. In order to register you can call 248-723-5752 or email MDCR-WomensComm@michigan.gov for more information. The Michigan Women's Commission is a co-sponsor of this event.

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CALENDAR

Feb. 14 – Ypsilanti High School, Women's Health and Fitness Day <http://www.umich.edu/~medfit/women>

Feb. 16 – 18 – Higgins Lake, MacMullan Conference Center, Becoming an Outdoorswoman Program (also Feb. 23-25 Big Bay).
Contact: Lynn Marla at marlal@michigan.gov.

Feb. 22 & 23 – Bay City State Theatre LunaFest – A Film Festival Celebrating Works by, for and about Women. Contact: Sue Voss, 989-686-2251.

March – Celebrate Women's History Month – The National Women's History Project has ideas, printable brochures, press kits, and other tools <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>.

March 14 – Michigan Women's Commission Meeting, Lansing www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

March 18 – 8:30-4:00, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus "A Call to Wholeness" woman's conference. Contact: 248-522-3642.

March 23 - 24 – "Run, Girl, Run" workshop, Farmington Hills, Oakland Community College. Contact: 248-723-5752.

March 24 – Kalamazoo, Western Michigan University, Community Faire, information about opportunities for women/girls, <http://www.wmich.edu/womenstu>.

March 30-31 – Hickory Corners, MSU Kellogg Biological Station, "The Michigan Celebration of Women in Computing" conference for women in computing and technology, <http://www.egr.msu.edu/~msuwic/cgi-bin/micwic.php>.

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